Standards in Indian Universities

685. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether standards in the Indian Universities are very low as compared to Universities in Western and Eastern countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the UGC ranks the Universities on the basis of infrastructure and performance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether there is any plan to prepared a list on the basis of standards of teaching, research publications and teaching and research infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the standards of Indian Universities are not low as compared to many universities of the Western and Eastern countries.

(c) to (e) The UGC, which was established in 1956 by- an Act of Parliament for the promotion and coordination of university education and determination and maintenance of standard of teaching, examination and research in universities, has established an autonomous organization, *viz,* National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) under Section 12 (ccc) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. The prime function of the NAAC is to assess and accredit institutions of higher learning with an objective to help them to work continuously to improve the quality of education. NAAC assesses the institutions based on the following criteria:

"(i) Curricular Aspects; (ii) Teaching, Learning and Evaluation; (iii) Research, Consultancy and Extension; (iv) Infrastructure and Learning Resources; (v) Student Support and Progression; (vi) Organisation and Management; and (vii) Healthy Practices."

The accredited institutions are graded on a five point scale varying from A* to A*****. The grade is also supplemented by a report by the team which highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the institutions under various criteria. The UGC has,informed all the Universities that it is mandatory and compulsory for all the universities to get themselves assessed and accredited by NAAC.

Racist Remarks in School Text Books

686. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints of derogatory comments about Black Americans in the General Knowledge Book, prescribed for classes IV to class X in all the primary schools in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating whether the matter has been examined by Government; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rectify the racist remarks in text books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The subject "Education" figures in the 'Concurrent' list. Therefore, both Central Government and State Governments can make legislations on this subject. As for as NCERT is concerned, it has not published any books containing such remarks. Government is not aware of any such book prescribed by any State School Board.